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Our Mission

The Mission of The Church of the Immaculate Conception is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.

From the Pastor's Desk

Divine Mercy Sunday

"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." When praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet those words are of preeminent importance. Using a traditional rosary these words are prayed at every bead where the "Hail Mary" would be said. With these words we call to mind the awful suffering that Jesus freely endured for the sake of our salvation and we humbly implore Divine Mercy upon us and on everyone else in the entire world.



This weekend we are celebrating the Second Sunday of the Easter Season. Because of a revelation that the Polish Saint Sr. Faustina had in her life, the day is also referred to as Divine Mercy Sunday. It is an intentional time to ponder the tremendous and truly unfathomable depths of Mercy that God has for each of us. Though we are sinners our Heavenly Father continually invites us into a deeper friendship through prayerful conversion. May the Grace of our Resurrected Lord Jesus continue to guide us and strengthen and have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Christ be Our Light, Fr. James



This Week's Readings and Observances

Sunday, April 19, 2nd Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday, April 20

Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday, April 21, *St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church* Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 22, Earth Day

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21

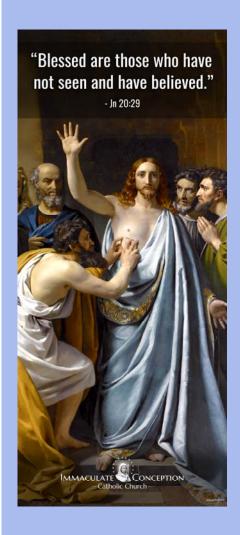
Thursday, April 23, *St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr* Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36

Friday, April 24, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; Arbor Day Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, April 25, *St. Mark, Evangelist* 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20

Sunday, April 26, 3rd Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

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Parish News

Stay in Touch With IC—Here's How:

- Watch for daily video messages from Father James and IC Masses online (available on our website, Facebook and our MyParish App)
- Read our parish bulletin online—available on our website or sign up to have a bulletin delivered to your email inbox
- Sign up online for Father James' weekly email and IC General Announcement emails
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
- Download our My Parish app

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is evenlasting."

(Psalm 118)

Eucharistic Adoration

"For the sake of the His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

(from the Divine Mercy Chaplet)

In Eucharistic Adoration, one will often find an adorer praying the Vine Mercy Chaplet during their hour of adoration. Praying for mercy for ourselves and for the whole world is vital to our spiritual well-being as well as our physical well-being especially during this time of the world -wide pandemic. Even though we may not be able to go to our adoration chapel, we can spend some time in adoration in our own homes bringing prayers before Jesus knowing He always hears us. Jesus, I trust in you!

If you would like information about Eucharistic Adoration or have questions about adoration, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246.

Easter Flower Memorials

Thank you to all those who have so generously donated to help with the cost of flowers and candles for our church, in memory or in honor of their loved ones whose names are listed below.

> Leonard and Lucille Nalezny Peter, Harriet, Jim and Jason Korzenowski

Discipleship

Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS | ©LPi



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If you choose to use your envelopes, you can mail them to the church or drop off at the parish office.

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



Pastoral Ministry

Anointing of the Sick

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request—call the Parish Office at 763-788-9062 x 212. In the Church's Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, through the ministry of the priest, it is Jesus who touches the sick to heal them from sin—and sometimes even from physical ailment.

In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray For Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially all who have died from war. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray For All the Sick

Especially: Paul Bona • Mary Fredenburg

Barbara Kaminski • Gerald Krawiecki • Steven Lauinger

Roger Mack • Janet Mihalik • Danille Remarke

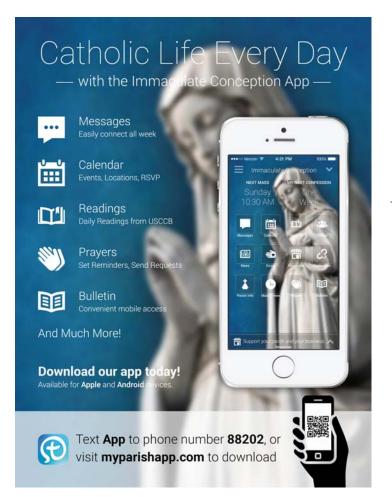
Shawn Moulzolf • Diane Redmann • Greg Sery

Tammy Swedzinski • Sandra Tabor • Elaine Thunstrom

Lois Weyers • Germaine Wolsfeld

and all those on our prayer chain

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.





Prayer During A Health Crisis

Compassionate and Loving Father, In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of your presence. *In You allow us to find hope and healing.* Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands. Be with those who lead and give them Your Spirit of wisdom. Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart. Wrap your arms around our world and hold us in your love. Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

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Mass Intentions

Sunday, April 19

+Adella Rimer, +Prokott Family, IC Parishioners

Tuesday, April 21

J.B. & Family

Wednesday, April 22

+Mary Ann Kocon & Michelle Kocon Reynolds

Saturday, April 25

+Don, Allen & Roger Dufault

Sunday, April 26

+Bill Lawler, +Randal & Betty Lou Wilcox, IC Parishioners

+Deceased

During suspension of public Masses, Father James will offer private Masses for the scheduled intentions.

Reflections

Word of Life

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, "be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."* Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is also available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion"

Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained Divine Mercy Sunday

Question: Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

Answer: If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She



received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young women, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come."

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Have you ever experienced awe? Awe is commonly defined as a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder. A moment of awe has the ability to lift us up out of ourselves and immerse us into something that causes us to wonder about ourselves, the meaning of life, and truth. Awe is an experience of connection that links us to something that is beyond the normal happenings of life. For us who believe that the resurrected Christ is present in all of life and the totality of the universe, being touched by awe can lead us to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!" Pondering the vastness of God's presence also brings us to a profound sense of God's mercy, which is the showering of His unconditional love on each of His daughters and sons. When we internalize this mystery, we may find ourselves standing in awe once again and feeling an intense sense of peace.

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Social Justice



Feed My Starving Children

The Feed My Starving Children collection will continue when we return to Mass.



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Church Directory

Emergency (Death or Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

PARISH

Parish Office
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)
Parish Fax763-788-0202
Pastor, Fr. James Peterson x 215
Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack x 204
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore x 205
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon x 214
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olsonx 218
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille x 212
Parish Business Manager, Michael Wildex 202
Reception Desk x 201
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser x 227
Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridgeman x 221
Wedding Coordinator, Barb Hartwick x 204
EAITH EADMATION

FAITH FORMATION

Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki x 2	.10
Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott x 2	.08

SCHOOL

School	
School Office	788-9065
School Fax	788-9066
Principal, Jane Bona (jbona@immac-church.org)	x 220
Director of Advancement/School Business Manage	er,
Mary Beth Pfeifer	x 203
Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko	x 219

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Kellner Kathy Johnson Charles Karanja Stacy McVary Marcus Paulson

> Jane Bona (School Principal) Steve Smith (Parish Trustee)

Copies of the Parish Council meeting minutes are available in the pamphlet racks at the entrance to the church.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available. Come to the Sacristy before Mass to request one.

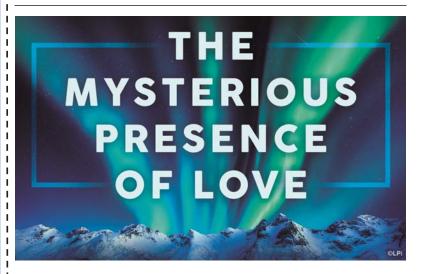
Collections

Through April 10, 2020

Sunday Envelopes (mailed in)\$	9,542.94
Plate (Palm Sunday palm pick-up)	221.00
Easter	2,355.00
WeShare Online Giving	1,822.50
Total Collection\$	13,941.44

THANK YOU!

Gospel Meditation



Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves—and in the very life of creation—this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

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"The stone the builders rejected has become the *cornerstone*."

Psalm 118:22

School News

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The school staff and students are holding you in prayer as we conduct school in a virtual manner. Each school day we have Morning Announcements that are sent to the students, parents and are available on our website. This provides some structure for students as they are used to this on a daily basis while at school and it forms a good connection with our school families. I will share more of how school is operating in a separate communication.

One of the many things that was disrupted by the Coronavirus is our World's Finest Chocolate Bar sale. These are always such a great treat, especially now that Lent has concluded and we may enjoy a wee bit more chocolate for dessert. We have many chocolate bars and boxes to sell. We are happy to sell an entire box or even just a few chocolate bars! These will be available in the parish office. Unfortunately, the parish office is not open for walk-in traffic but we do have a couple of wonderful people—Fr. James and Mary Beth Pfeifer—who are in the office from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday - Friday!

If they know you are coming (by calling ahead), they can have your chocolate bars ready for you. We are reducing the chocolate bar price to .50 each and if you are interested in an entire box, there are 60 bars in a box/case (\$30.00 per box).

Please know how grateful the Immaculate Conception School community is for your consistent and generous support for our parish school.

Thank you for believing in our school!

Jane Bona, Principal



Prayer

Monthly Prayer Intention

Please join the Intercessory Prayer Ministry in praying for this month's prayer intention: *Conversion of IC parishioners*

Will You Pray for a Priest Each Day?

Prayer Suggestion: Dear Jesus, hear my prayer on behalf of your priest, Father [N]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life. Be his comfort, his joy, and his strength. Amen.

April 19 - Rev. David Ostrowski

April 20 - Rev. Humberto Palomino, PES

April 21 - Rev. Brian Park

April 22 - Rev. John Parkos

April 23 - Rev. William Paron

April 24 - Rev. Biju Pattasseril, CFIC

April 25 - Rev. John Paul, SJ

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FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Divine Mercy with Father Michael Gaitley

The vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced interwoven through the transformative events of Saint Faustina, Mary at Fatima, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

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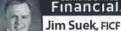


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